

# Case-Ex: Loyalty

## Splash Opening:

*(Bolded text is displayed in the Army Value introduction video)*

**Loyalty: Bear true faith and allegiance to the U.S. Constitution, the Army, your unit and other Soldiers.**

As Soldiers in the United States Army, we recognize that Loyalty is the thread that binds our actions together and defines our commitment to each other, our units, our Country and our Constitution. It also describes our commitment to our family members and to ourselves. Loyalty builds mutual trust and allows us to succeed as a team.

Objective: **Understand the Army Value of Loyalty and how to live it as a Soldier.** Think about the definition of Loyalty. As a Soldier, how *should* you bear true faith and allegiance?

- **Faithfully adhere to others, our units and our Army**
- **Believe in and devote yourself to others**
- **Support leaders and the chain of command**
- **Care for your subordinates**
- **Work with the team**
- **Prioritize your obligations**
- **Work within the system**

As Soldiers, we live with balanced Loyalties. We are loyal first to our Constitution and our government, then to our Army and our units, and always to our family and to each other. We recognize that we live a Loyalty that is greater than ourselves.

- **What does Loyalty mean to you personally?**
- **How do Soldiers show Loyalty to one another?**

## **ARMY VALUES Case-Ex: Loyalty (continued)**

### **Case-Ex: Loyalty – ARMY VALUES (PV2 Miller)**

*(Bolded questions are included in the Case-Ex video interface)*

#### **Part 1:**

PV2 Miller describes having a buddy in Basic who gets a “Dear John” letter from his fiancée. PV2 Miller describes the Soldier’s struggle to stay motivated and how he ultimately thought of committing suicide. The Soldier ends up cutting his wrists in the latrine, but survived. The Platoon reacts to him in various ways, and many shun or mock the Soldier as “just trying to get kicked out.” PV2 Miller has to decide whether or not to stick by his friend.

*Recognize the ethical dilemma*

- 1. What challenge is PV2 Miller facing with the Soldier in his unit?**
2. What are the real issues?
3. How aware was PV2 Miller that he had been confronted with an ethical decision?

*Examine options through the ethical lenses*

- 4. How is the platoon demonstrating a lack of Loyalty?**
- 5. Is helping this Soldier seen as a sign of weakness or a sign of strength? Why?**
6. What options does PV2 Miller have?
7. What possible outcomes might result from how PV2 Miller treats this Soldier?
8. What rules or regulations apply to PV2 Miller’s actions toward fellow Soldiers?
9. What could be considered the right action and attitude for PV2 Miller?
10. How should PV2 Miller evaluate his options?
11. What external resources should PV2 Miller consider as part of his solution?

*Commit to a Decision*

12. What factors could influence PV2 Miller in how he treats his buddy?
13. Would it be easier to just ignore the other Soldier?
14. What might be limiting PV2 Miller’s ability to take action or to change his perception?

*Act*

15. Should PV2 Miller’s actions address his Loyalty to this Soldier? To his Platoon? To the Army? How are they different?
16. Would helping this Soldier be seen as a sign of weakness or a sign of strength? Why?

## **ARMY VALUES Case-Ex: Loyalty (continued)**

### **Part 2:**

PV2 Miller describes how he remained a friend to this Soldier. He describes the “little things” that he did to encourage his friend. The rest of the Platoon began to respond to this Soldier as well—rather than making fun of him. PV2 Miller describes the bond that he has to his Battle Buddies.

- 1. Did the way PV2 Miller act show Loyalty to the Soldier? To the unit? To the Army? How are they different?**
- 2. Why is demonstrating Loyalty in this way important as a Soldier?**
- 3. What negative effects could have happened if PV2 Miller failed to demonstrate Loyalty?**
- 4. What other Army Values did you recognize in PV2 Miller?**
- 5. Who can Soldiers turn to if they need help?**
6. What motivated PV2 Miller to act the way he did?
7. How did the Soldier react at first when PV2 Miller expressed an interest in his personal life? How did he react later?
8. How might this experience change the attitudes and actions of everyone that was involved?
9. How can one experience like this change our attitudes?
10. Were there any Army Values in conflict with each other?

## ARMY VALUES Case-Ex: Loyalty (continued)

### Case-Ex: Loyalty – Garrison/Off Duty (SGT Purchase)

*(Bolded questions are included in the Case-Ex video interface)*

#### Part 1:

SGT Purchase describes one of the female Soldiers in his Platoon whom he admired. She rose quickly into a leadership position and set the example for her Soldiers. After re-deployment, members of the unit move to different Army posts and positions. SGT Purchase finds out the female soldier had bone cancer—and later died. He weighs the decision to go to her funeral, realizing that his wife may misunderstand his motives for going and because financially it will be difficult.

*Recognize the ethical dilemma*

- 1. How important is Loyalty in a team or unit? Why?**
2. What is SGT Purchase's problem?
3. How aware was SGT Purchase that he had been confronted with an ethical decision?

*Examine options through the ethical lenses*

- 4. How might SGT Purchase's feelings toward his wife and family conflict with his sense of Loyalty to his comrades and to the fallen Soldier?**
5. What options does SGT Purchase have?
6. What possible outcomes may result from his decision?
7. What rules or regulations apply to this situation?
8. What could be considered the right action and attitude for SGT Purchase?
9. How should SGT Purchase evaluate his options?

*Commit to a Decision*

- 10. What factors could influence SGT Purchase in whether or not he goes to the funeral?**
11. Would it be easier just to ignore this situation and not take action?
12. What might be limiting SGT Purchase's ability to take action or to change his perception?

*Act*

13. What course of action do you think would be most difficult for SGT Purchase? Why?
14. What further decisions might SGT Purchase face once he begins to take action?
- 15. Have you ever been in a situation of "conflicting Loyalties?"**

## **ARMY VALUES Case-Ex: Loyalty (continued)**

### **Part 2:**

SGT Purchase discusses his choice to go to the funeral. He and his wife had to work through it and were somehow able to find the financial means. The experience is very moving—as members of the unit come from all over—and his wife was able to understand more deeply the bonds of the profession of arms.

- 1. How did SGT Purchase resolve his “conflicting loyalties”?**
- 2. Why did SGT Purchase take his wife to the funeral? What was her reaction?**
- 3. What might the long-term effects have been if SGT Purchase did not go?**
- 4. What other Army Values did you recognize in SGT Purchase?**
5. What motivated SGT Purchase to act as he did?
6. Why is demonstrating loyalty in this way important as a Soldier?
7. How can one experience like this change our attitudes?
8. Were there any other Army Values in conflict?

## **ARMY VALUES Case-Ex: Loyalty (continued)**

### **Case-Ex: Loyalty – Combat (SSG Green)**

*(Bolded questions are included in the Case-Ex video interface)*

#### **Part 1:**

SSG Green describes his deployment to Iraq and his close friendship with SSG Shaffer. While SSG Green is on QRF, he learns that SSG Shaffer has hit an IED—and has no radio comms...SSG Green responds and saves his friend.

*Recognize the ethical dilemma*

- 1. What events and experiences have built the Loyalty between SSG Green and SSG Shaffer?**
- 2. In his actions while on QRF, how does SSG Green's Loyalty to SSG Shaffer align with his Loyalty to the unit and to the mission?**
3. What could change in this scenario that would cause Duty and Loyalty to be in conflict?
4. What factors could make such a problem more difficult?

*Examine options through the ethical lenses*

- 5. What if SSG Green was unable to go on this mission? If a different platoon was given the mission, how might he handle it?**
- 6. Why is this type of Loyalty important as a Soldier?**
7. What are the positive outcomes of the Loyalty that SSG Green displayed?
8. What rules or regulations apply to this situation?
9. How did SSG Green's attitudes and actions demonstrate "true faith and allegiance?"

*Commit to a Decision*

10. In this type of situation, what could limit SSG Green's ability to make the right decision?

*Act*

11. Besides his Loyalty to SSG Shaffer, what else should shape SSG Green's actions?
12. What situation could exist in which "not going" would be a sign of strength?

## **ARMY VALUES Case-Ex: Loyalty (continued)**

### **Part 2:**

As the deployment continues, SSG Green finds himself on a patrol. He turns into an alley and spots a trigger man. He is then jarred by the blast of the IED that immobilizes his Bradley and knocks him out. SSG Green talks about the bonds of Loyalty—and how he *knew* that SSG Shaffer would come to his aid.

- 1. How do Soldiers draw strength from their Loyalties to other Soldiers?**
- 2. When SSG Shaffer arrived, what conflict do you think that he might have experienced when he saw that both the Commander's and SSG Green's vehicles had been hit at nearly the same time?**
- 3. In your opinion, how did SSG Shaffer prioritize his Duties and Loyalties? Was that the right call?**
- 4. What other Army Values did you recognize in this situation?**
5. Why is this type of Loyalty important as a Soldier?
6. How might this experience change the attitudes and actions of everyone that was involved?